

UCLA Faculty Association

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Tuesday, August 20, 2024

The more, but not the merrier

An op ed recently appeared in the [Sacramento Bee](#) by Giuliana Perrone, associate professor of history at UC Santa Barbara: [excerpts]

The University of California has just admitted what it says is its "largest and most diverse" class of students ever. This sounds positive — more Californians are gaining access to higher education, especially first generation and low-income students as well as individuals from underrepresented backgrounds. But as a UC faculty member, I reacted with despair. Where will these students live? Who will teach them? Who will advise them? How will they get the classes they need? Who will support their physical and mental health?








...I am the proud product of the UC system and I am extraordinarily grateful to be a faculty member at one. I earned my PhD at Berkeley, and am now a professor at UC Santa Barbara. I know first-hand how transformative the UC can be in people's lives, and I strongly believe in its core principles, articulated in the state's 1960 master plan, to pursue excellence in research and teaching while making higher education accessible to all. That ethos remains strong among faculty, but it is not enough to sustain the system.

Year after year, the UC enrolls more students than ever before. This is on top of the enrollment "surges" of prior years... At UC Berkeley, for example, the faculty to student ratio rose from 18-1 to 30-1 between 1990 and 2020, and many students are taking longer to earn their degrees because they can't get into the classes they need. As someone who regularly teaches large classes — sometimes over 500 students with long waitlists — it is impossible for me to provide students with the focused attention so many need to reach their full academic potential, let alone do so while also fulfilling research and administrative requirements.

Our facilities also show signs of decades of deferred maintenance... Similarly, housing shortages have plagued the system, and viable solutions to the problem have been slow to materialize... It would be easy to blame campus spending for the UC's budgetary crisis, such as the new labor contract with graduate student employees. But these are red herrings that detract from the structural problems we face. It would have been far cheaper, for instance, to invest in the construction of student housing than it is now to pay our students a salary that keeps up with cost of living increases. In other words, demands for higher pay are a symptom of a crumbling system — not its cause.

...The UC was once considered the best university system in the world, and our master plan became the gold standard for higher education. But we're a shell of our former selves, and that's exactly what awaits the record number of new admits that will join the UC in the fall.

Full op ed at <https://www.sacbee.com/opinion/op-ed/article291019795.html>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:00 AM](#) No comments:     

Labels: [UC](#), [UC enrollment](#), [UC-Berkeley](#), [UC-Santa Barbara](#)

Monday, August 19, 2024

Need for a Reality Check - Part 2



Yesterday, we posted about an Academic Senate document that seemed out of step with reality. As if to emphasize that point, UC President Drake issued a letter today which makes what we referred to yesterday as a *de facto* UC policy explicit:

From the [LA Times](#):

University of California President Michael V. Drake on Monday directed chancellors of all 10

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campuses to strictly enforce rules against encampments, protests that block pathways and masking that shields identities amid sharp calls to rein in the kind of scofflaw demonstrations over the Israel-Hamas war that roiled universities last spring. As students begin returning to school this week, Drake also sent a letter to the UC community affirming that the right to protest, exercise free speech and voice diverse viewpoints was fundamental to the mission of the university — the birthplace of the Free Speech Movement, he noted. He said the “vast majority” of campus protests are peaceful and nonviolent but “some of the activities we saw over the past year were not” and needed to be addressed.

“Clear communication and consistent application of policies and laws are key to achieving the delicate but essential balance between free speech rights and the need to protect the safety of our community and maintain critical University operations,” he wrote. He told chancellors that rights to free speech and academic freedom must not “place community members in reasonable fear for their personal safety or infringe on their civil rights.”

Drake’s letters responded to rising criticism from some regents, faculty, campus security, legislators and others that the protests had gotten out of control and UC needed to consistently enforce campus rules around them. **The top-down presidential directive, which allows for few if any exceptions, is unusual in a system that values the independent decision-making of its campus chancellors. Drake said, however, that he consulted widely over the summer with regents, campus leaders, faculty, students and others in shaping UC’s approach on protests going forward...**

Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2024-08-19/zero-tolerance-at-uc-campus-es-in-new-order-banning-encampments-masking-blocking-paths>.

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President Michael V. Drake, M.D., issued the letter below to the University of California community on Monday, Aug. 19, 2024.
<https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/employee-news/updates-on-uc-campus-climate-efforts/>

Dear UC community,

As the 2024-25 academic year begins on our campuses over the next few days and weeks, I want to share a few updates about our work this summer to ensure a safe, inclusive campus climate that fosters a free exchange of ideas across the University of California.

Freedom to express diverse viewpoints is fundamental to the mission of the University, and lawful protests play a pivotal role in that process. The Free Speech Movement was born at the University of California. We are proud to uphold that tradition today. We make every effort to nurture free expression, and we provide countless opportunities and venues for our students, faculty, other academic appointees, and staff to safely and lawfully share their diverse viewpoints and beliefs. While the vast majority of protests held on our campuses are peaceful and nonviolent, some of the activities we saw this past year were not.

My office and campus leaders have spent the summer reflecting with students, faculty, staff, Regents, and others on the events of the past year. We have sought to identify ways we can strengthen and clarify our policies and procedures together. Clear communication and consistent application of policies and laws are key to achieving the delicate but essential balance between free speech rights and the need to protect the safety of our community and maintain critical University operations.

With these goals in mind, we will take several steps to facilitate more consistency across our locations, including:


- Clarifying and reinforcing requirements for policies impacting expressive activities, including policies that prohibit camping or encampments, unauthorized structures, restrictions on free movement, masking to conceal identity, and refusing to reveal one’s identity when asked to do so by University personnel;
- Developing a framework for consistent implementation of our policies and for consistent responses to policy violations;
- Issuing guidance for notifications about campus climate resources and policies, in response to the California State Budget Bill; and
- Launching a UC Campus Climate Initiative to help all UC locations develop campus climate action plans for fall 2024 and beyond.

Some of this work has already begun, and you will hear more about it from your campus leadership in the coming weeks. Our ultimate goal is for all of our community members to feel supported in their ability to express themselves, and to pursue their studies, research, patient care, and other work on our campuses. We also want our community members to understand what’s expected of them, including a clear understanding of the principles, policies, and laws that govern our behavior on campus.

We appreciate the input we’ve received from our students, faculty, and staff representatives and many others on these issues — it has informed our approach and will help us achieve an even more inclusive, engaged, and productive UC community. Thank you in advance for your participation in this effort, and we wish you an outstanding academic year.

Sincerely,

Michael V. Drake, M.D.
President, University of California

Posted by California Policy Issues at [9:45 AM](#) No comments:       

Labels: [academic freedom](#), [diversity](#), [Drake](#), [UC](#)

Is there a disconnect?

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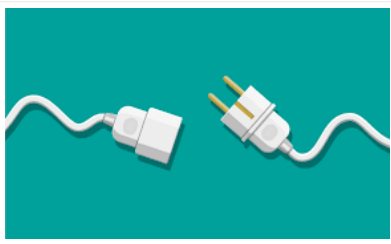
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Blog readers will be aware of the ongoing debate and controversy over what courses should be required in high school, particularly math, to be eligible for entrance into a UC campus.

Recently, however, the [LA Times](#) carried an article indicating many high school students have basic problems of reading and literacy. In that context, distinctions between advanced high school math courses seem disconnected from what high school teachers are dealing with:



Like many high school chemistry teachers, Angie Hackman said she instructs students on atoms, matter and how they "influence the world around us." But Hackman also has another responsibility: developing students' literacy skills. She closely reads passages from their textbooks, breaks apart prefixes and suffixes and identifies root words. She dissected the word "intermolecular," and its prefix, "inter," connecting it to other words with that same prefix.

Every teacher at her San Diego charter school, Health Sciences High and Middle College, teaches students literacy skills, regardless of the subject. That's because so many students arrive at the school struggling with basic reading, some scoring at the first- or second-grade level, said Douglas Fisher, a school administrator. The goal is for high school graduates to attain "reading levels ready for college." ...

Poor reading skills are a nationwide issue. On the 2022 National Assessment of Education Progress, known as the Nation's Report Card, nearly 70% of eighth-graders scored below "proficient" and, of those, 30% scored "below basic," roughly the same as California scores. In the Los Angeles Unified School District, 72% of eighth-graders scored below proficient and 33% below basic in 2022...

That may be due, in part, to larger troubles with literacy instruction. For decades, the primary methods for teaching students how to read in the U.S. were out of line with evolving research, known as "the science of reading."

A wide body of research indicates students need explicit instruction in foundational reading skills, like phonics, in order to be able to recognize and make sense of words on the page. But many schools have also used a rival curriculum called the "whole language" approach, which generally de-emphasizes phonics. Some high school teachers see the fallout... Some experts and educators worry reading reforms have left older students behind...

Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2024-08-14/how-teaching-reading-in-every-high-school-class-can-improve-literacy>.

Note that the effects of lost schooling due to the COVID pandemic, particularly on kids of elementary school age, are also yet to be fully felt. It is now generally understood that attempts to substitute remote education for in-person learning resulted in setbacks for cohorts of students. And even before AI came along with its challenges, we had a generation of students who learned a kind of cut-and-paste-from-web-sources approach to writing in high school.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:00 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [admissions](#), [UC](#)

Sunday, August 18, 2024

Need for a Reality Check



We reproduce below a lengthy letter from Academic Senate Chair Steintrager to President Drake concerning UC campus response to the encampments during the last academic year along with related issues concerning the Regents and the legislature. It essentially calls for more consultation with the Senate regarding actions and policies applying to such disturbances.

But there is a problem. As we noted, the document is lengthy and

includes an attachment from a Senate committee with still more text. We have reproduced it below for the record. But you probably won't read it. Few will. That is a problem, but not the only problem.

The document notes that some campuses were more successful than others in dealing with the encampments. Success seems to be defined as a situation in which the participants in the encampment voluntarily disbanded. There are two problems with that definition. It does not consider results beyond whether the police were eventually called such as campus academic disruption and other externalities. And it points to the 2012 Robinson-Edley report without recognition that, as far as yours truly can tell, Robinson-Edley is essentially dead or at least comatose. Robinson-Edley was developed in a different climate. There were no nationwide campus protests in 2012. President Drake had hoped that some combination of Robinson-Edley and money for "neutral" programming on the history of the Israel-Gaza conflict would take care of the situation. It didn't. And he is now leaving at the end of this academic year.

Since the disturbances at UCLA were the most intense, the outcome at UCLA is most revealing. As blog readers will know, UCLA is currently under a temporary injunction related to the protests

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- which it is appealing. However, in its defense in that case, UCLA acknowledged its problems of enforcement in the spring but said it now had a new policy so that no injunction was necessary. That new policy is to remove any encampments swiftly and generally enforce existing campus rules regarding obstruction of walkways, buildings, vandalism, harassment, etc.

A new police official has been brought in to administer the UCLA policy - although it seems to be the policy that was recommended by the UCLA police chief when the encampment first formed, but was rejected at the time, apparently because it was perceived to be out of step with Robinson-Edley. Although other campuses have not been forced to reveal their current policies openly via litigation, one suspects that the UCLA policy is essentially the *de facto* systemwide policy. For that matter, after the high profile falls of several university leaders around the country, variants of the UCLA policy are to be found outside the UC system.

Was there consultation with the Academic Senate leadership at UCLA when the new policy was created? The letter does not address that issue. The letter does not examine how to address relations with the Regents - which were already under strain before the encampments. It does not examine how to address relations with the legislature. The attachment to the letter asserts that, "*it should be the university's highest priority to protect our community members in their individual and collective expression (including physical protection when necessary).*" The injunction against UCLA in effect says that such protection did not occur in spring 2024. UCLA agrees that protection did not occur in the past but argues no injunction is needed now because of its new policy.

Summer 2024, *aka* reality, should be the starting point for the Senate, not 2012. Otherwise, there will be more lengthy letters and no results.

The letter is below:

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August 14, 2024

MICHAEL V. DRAKE

PRESIDENT

Re: Shared Governance in Policy Compliance and Emergency Management

Dear President Drake,

UC campuses continue to cope with the aftermath of 2023-24 protests even as they prepare for a likely new wave of protests and presumably new protest tactics this fall. Above all, the encampments and campus responses to them have raised numerous areas of concern for faculty. Some of these concerns fall under the broad purview of the Academic Senate to address "any matter pertaining to the conduct and welfare of the University" (Regents Bylaw 40.1). Others relate to the Senate's specific Regental delegations of authority and, in particular, ensuring "the quality of instruction, research, and public service at the University" and protecting academic freedom. At its July 24, 2024 meeting, the Academic Council discussed both how the University might address and assess the handling of the past protests, as well as Senate expectations for meaningful engagement—in accordance with the principles and practices of shared governance—regarding freedom of expression, academic freedom, "time, place, and manner" (TPM) policies, campus policing, and emergency responses. Council also discussed a letter prepared by the University Committee on Affirmative Action, Diversity, and Equity (UCAADE), which I attach for your reference. UCAADE makes the following points:

- During the spring 2024 protests, the guidelines in the 2012 Campus Protests Report (aka, Robinson-Edley Report), which aim to minimize the use of outside law enforcement and protect the right to free expression, were not consistently followed across campuses.
- The presence and effectiveness of local institutions to manage protests and engage with protestors varied significantly, with some campuses having established structures that facilitated better outcomes.
- There was insufficient transparency and documentation around decision-making processes, particularly regarding the use of law enforcement and consultation with faculty.

The Council joins UCAADE in urging greater transparency, communication, and shared governance in response to protests moving forward. To expand on and add to these concerns, we witnessed significant variability in how individual campus administrations responded to recent protestors. All ten campuses had encampments of various sizes and duration. Of these, fully six came to an end only with police intervention. In several cases, mutual aid was employed in the clearing of the encampments and related protest activity, including numerous arrests of campus affiliates and non-affiliates. On three campuses, administrators successfully engaged with protestors on their demands and encampments were disbanded voluntarily.

At three divisions where there were major police interventions (UCLA, UC San Diego, and UC Irvine), faculty concern was such that votes of no confidence and/or censure of chancellors were taken via the Academic Senate. Although none of these motions passed, the margins were narrow and revealed significant fissures within the faculty at these divisions regarding how administrations handled the encampments and how they had deployed police. The very fact of such votes—a rare occurrence but within the procedures of the Academic Senate to carry out—underlines how serious and unusual the situation was. Clearly in the case of UCLA, UC Office of the President (UCOP) concurred with the faculty assessment of deep concern, since an independent investigation of the administrative response, focusing on the use of police, was launched immediately after the encampment had been cleared. We should add that the UCI Division of the Academic Senate passed a resolution requesting of UCOP an independent investigation of the police intervention on that campus, which again signals unresolved issues post-encampment. The UCSD Division of the Academic Senate passed two related resolutions: one asking the Chancellor to work with the Academic Senate to implement measures to make future police actions on campus in response to civil disobedience less likely; and a second to create a Faculty Crisis Response Committee as a new Senate standing committee.

Given the variability of responses and outcomes across the system, little wonder that faculty continue to have questions about what could have been done differently and how campuses might learn from mistakes, successes, and from one another. One of the recommendations of the Robinson-Edley Report is to conduct post-event reviews of police responses to civil disobedience on campuses. In the words of the report: "Meaningful and transparent review of the response to civil disobedience promotes accountability and enhances the credibility of campus and police leadership within the University community, and beyond" (p. 96). The report further recommends that the "reviewing body should be housed within the University but outside the Administration and police department on the campus in question" (p. 96). Without recounting details of the report's recommendations about how to conduct post-event reviews, Academic Council considers an overarching post-event review is more than warranted. Among other things, such a review would help us better understand, gauge, and perhaps assuage faculty concerns, and might help reveal to what extent communication and faculty consultation through the Academic Senate on those campuses where police were not deployed may have contributed to better outcomes.

As UCAADE notes, some campuses have established structures that facilitated less contentious outcomes during the spring protests. At UC Berkeley, where the divisional Senate chair was included as an active participant in frequent high-level emergency meetings, the encampment ended without police intervention. Similarly, the UC Davis emergency management model, which includes Senate representation, appeared to function well. UC Santa Cruz employs a similar model; however, we understand that the UCSC administration excluded the Senate just before deciding to clear its campus encampment. Going forward, we recommend that all campuses consider adopting the Berkeley or Davis model or something similar and include the Senate chair on the emergency management consultation team. It is crucial for campus administrations to keep the Senate informed and ideally engaged at each decision-making stage. Members of Academic Council are also fully aware that there are numerous variables at play—including historical experiences, campus cultures, accessibility of campuses to non-affiliates, and many more—and do not consider consultation with the Senate a panacea. We do think it is worth looking into models that may serve well and might be replicated across all divisions—and considering whether in the failed cases, more or better communication would have proven ameliorative.

Academic Council believes that the Academic Senate through divisional leadership or delegations of leadership should, as a matter of practice and principle, be both informed and consulted during emergency situations and the like. There should be protocols and structures in place to access critical information and to promote timely consultation, and UCOP might play a helpful role in supporting the systemwide Senate as we work with divisions to ensure this is so. In this regard, one of the most troubling elements of the administrative responses to the protests was shifting to remote instruction without adequate, or in some cases any, prior consultation with the Academic Senate, despite its authority over the delivery of instruction, including modality.

Although the administration clearly has the authority to declare an emergency and cancel classes, we are concerned about the reflex default to remote instruction (following on the pandemic pivot), and that remote instruction may become a protest management tool. In the future, any proposed emergency move to remote instruction must include consultation with the Senate. Regarding continuity of instruction, the administration has understandably treated this as a student's right vis-à-vis academic labor disruption and pointed the faculty in the direction of their responsibilities under the Faculty Code of Conduct and asked the Academic Senate to remind our colleagues of these responsibilities. At the very least, we should expect consultation and ratification of decisions concerning instruction during protests and the like to come from the Academic Senate given its purview within the structures of shared governance.

Post-event review would also shed some light on another alarming aspect of the variable responses of campuses, including how California Penal Code 626.4 was employed, as well as the use of interim suspensions. Council has also received credible reports of instances in which individual Regents directly intervened in negotiations between campuses and protestors, and instances in which Regents and UCOP administrators compelled campuses to file charges against faculty, students, and staff who were arrested during protests, bypassing normal campus disciplinary procedures. Furthermore, the Regents amended UCOP's May 9 guidelines on disciplinary actions to assert that amnesty is inconsistent with due process for individuals cited for UC policy violations. Some individual Regents also appear to have exerted pressure on or otherwise interfered with Senate procedures on votes of no confidence and related measures. Such Regental actions and mandates are unusual and surface deep concerns about potential overreach of authority.

Shifting to the State Legislature's response to the protest events at UC, the approved California State Budget for 2024-25 now includes several stipulations regarding notification of students of campus TPM policies, consistency of content and implementation of such policies across the UC system, and the development of campus climate action plans that aim to safeguard legal free expression while maintaining safe and welcoming educational access for all. Although UCOP's plan to clarify, communicate, and ensure systemwide consistency of TPM policies does not ostensibly include any new restrictions, it will likely intensify efforts to enforce existing prohibitions on blocking access to campus facilities, impeding University operations, constructing structures on campus property, overnight camping, and masking with the intent to conceal identity. Additionally, the initiative will enforce an existing requirement that faculty, students, and staff carry UC identification while on campus. We believe that consultation with the Senate may help the administration better understand how communications about TPM restrictions will be received and where there is likely to be pushback.

More importantly, however, because it gets to the heart of the Senate's authorities, campus climate action plans that touch on matters of instruction and academic freedom should only be developed in conjunction with the Senate. This is especially true for the legislative stipulations that are spelled out in Section 219, Provisions 34.a.7 and 34.a.8 of the 2024 budget trailer bill (Senate Bill 108), which are worth citing. Stipulation 7 requires each campus to explain "how the campus intends to foster healthy discourse and bring together campus community members, and viewpoints that are ideologically different, in order to best promote the educational mission of the institution and the exchange of ideas in a safe and peaceful manner." Stipulation 8 requires each campus to "identify educational programs and activities for faculty, staff, and

students to support the balance between free speech activities, educational mission, and student safety.” While these stipulations are doubtless well-intentioned, they open thorny issues of academic freedom, which, as noted, the Regents specifically enjoin the Senate to protect.

To summarize Academic Council’s specific requests for your consideration:

1. In keeping with the recommendations of the Robinson-Edley Report on post-event review and in recognition of the widespread nature of the protests and variability of campus responses, we request an internal, systemwide and campus-independent review of the events of the spring and one that would involve capturing all faculty concerns.
2. Also in keeping with Robinson-Edley as well as campus experiences of the spring, we request that UCOP support and facilitate efforts at the divisions to ensure that the Academic Senate is represented on emergency management teams and that decisions about instruction, in particular, respect the Senate’s delegated authority.
3. Further and in keeping with Senate purview, we expect significant consultation with the Academic Senate on the implementation of requirements in the current California Budget Act of 2024 regarding time, place, and manner restrictions and especially on campus climate action plans where they touch on matters of instruction and academic freedom.

We look forward to working with you on these critical matters of shared governance. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

James Steintrager, Chair, Academic Council

Cc: Academic Council

Provost & Executive Vice President Newman

Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer Nava

Vice President and Chief of Staff Kao

Chief Policy Advisor McAuliffe

Senate Division Executive Directors

Senate Executive Director Lin

=====

Attachment:

July 8, 2024

JAMES STEINTRAGER

CHAIR, ACADEMIC COUNCIL

RE: POLICING AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Dear Chair Steintrager,

UCAADE is a body charged with ensuring that all UC voices are heard, respected, and protected. It is from this position that we submit the following to Academic Council:

Protests across the UC system in 2024 were met with a wide range of administration decisions and actions on the 10 campuses. In some cases, administrators and protestors (and, critically, interstitial staff and faculty) worked together to ensure and protect the right to peaceful expression as part of university function. In other cases, administrators avoided engagement and turned to outside law enforcement. UCAADE recognizes that each of these protests was unique – and that protester and outsider behavior varied across campuses. But from the perspective of the committee, it is perhaps more important that the processes administrations used to arrive at those decisions also varied tremendously.

UCAADE would like to highlight three features that have arisen from the ensemble of experiences this past year:

(1) Robinson-Edley Report guidelines were not followed to the same degree across campuses. These guidelines are supposed to shape how campus administrators engage with protestors, with the express aim of minimizing the use of outside law enforcement. Exceptional campus protections around free expression are a key way in which marginalized voices and opinions are heard; second, risks of racial profiling and police brutality disproportionately fall on our minoritized students, faculty, and staff. Anything other than the most urgent or most thoughtful engagement with outside police therefore does not enhance the safety of our students, nor foster the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Our own chief safety officer has acknowledged that, even in the best of circumstances, it is impossible to ensure that these reinforcement units understand, respect, and uphold our unique community values in the way that trained safety personnel within our campus communities do. Use of external officers must be a last resort and confined to extreme and urgent situations.

This is particularly important in the wake of the recent deliberate and welcome reallocation of resources away from armed UCPD officers to a more holistic set of campus safety resources. Such a policy shift had raised the possibility of a move towards more consensual policing, based on principles of de-escalation and dialogue. This was clearly followed on some campuses, and not at all on others.

(2) Local institutions to help campus communities handle protests in a structured manner differ across the system. Campuses that had pre-existing committees and procedures in place to facilitate communication and jointly understand and interpret the local safety situation in general had more successful experiences. These bodies were formal in some cases, informal and impromptu in others, but served a vital role in encouraging transparency and faculty consultation. They were also critically important in educating students about activism and

helping them to understand their rights and responsibilities in advance, as well as the consequences of different choices and when/how they would apply. In locations without these kinds of groups, the information vacuum was filled by outsiders who were typically not concerned with student awareness of their choices and potential consequences.

(3) Transparency about decision making (including faculty consultation) has been poor. Although some campus administrations have circulated timelines or other documentation of protest-related events (including decisions around use of law enforcement), this has not been uniform; moreover, to our knowledge there has been no independent documentation of these decisions. If we are to learn and grow, we have to understand where we fell short of our shared ideals. It should be the university's highest priority to protect our community members in their individual and collective expression (including physical protection when necessary). We would like to extend the benefit of the doubt to those in decision making positions because we assume they meant well. But how various safety considerations were weighed on our campuses in many cases remains unclear. Many are thus left feeling that the language of safety has been weaponized in different ways but do not feel any safer.

Based on these stylized facts, UCAADE therefore calls for a systemwide participatory process to examine and update policies around protests and expression of first amendment rights, including TPM restrictions, administration communication channels during such events, shared governance practices, de-escalation procedures, and guidelines around civil disobedience. Moreover, we call on President Drake to institute transparency and accountability dashboards for administration use of external law enforcement. Just as our own UCPD are held to transparency and accountability standards across our campuses, our leadership must also be held accountable for their decisions and their adherence (or non-adherence) to policies and procedures around freedom of expression, de-escalation, and use of resources.

Our campuses are communities-within-communities that are exceptional in many ways: we hold freedom of expression and academic freedom paramount, and we share the belief that we can build a better and more just world through a dedication to unfettered inquiry and the robust exchange of ideas. In all we do, but also in how we do it, we must take our job of being a light for the world seriously. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Burney

Chair, UCAADE

cc: UCAADE

Source: https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/reports/js-md-shared-governance-policy-compliance-emergency-management.pdf.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:00 AM No comments:      

Labels: [Drake](#), [UC](#), [UCLA](#)

Saturday, August 17, 2024

Will UC Calculate Costs?



A new law "asks" UC to disclose course costs. Excerpt from [EdSource](#):

Colleges must disclose costs





The typical California college student is expected to spend \$1,062 on books and supplies in the 2024-25 academic year, according to the California Student Aid Commission.

The exact costs can be hard for students to predict, leaving them uncertain about how much money to budget for a given class. Assembly Bill 607, which Newsom signed last year, requires California State University campuses and community colleges to disclose upfront the estimated costs of course materials and fees for some of their courses this school year. The bill asks University of California campuses to do the same, but does not make it a requirement.

The schools must provide information for at least 40% of courses by Jan. 1 of next year, increasing that percentage each year until there are cost disclosures for 75% of courses by 2028. This year, campuses should also highlight courses that use free digital course materials and low-cost print materials, according to the legislation...

Full story at <https://edsources.org/2024/new-laws-impacting-education-go-into-effect-as-the-school-year-begins/717299>.

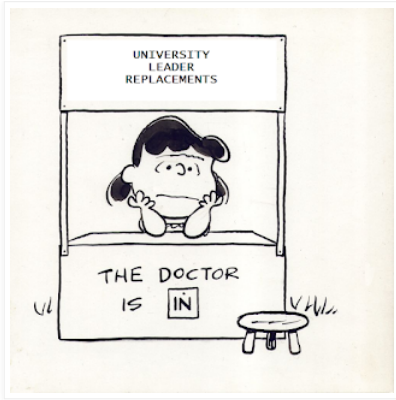
Note that January 1, 2025 is the beginning of the winter quarter. Do most faculty know what the costs are of textbooks and other materials? Is the university going to make the calculation for them? For 40% of all courses offered?

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:00 AM No comments:      

Labels: [legislature](#), [UC](#)

Friday, August 16, 2024

The Doctors Are In



There seems to be a pattern forming. Whenever a university needs a new leader after a period of campus unrest, whatever board makes such selections picks an MD:

Harvard brought in Dr. Garber.

The U of Pennsylvania brought in Dr. Jameson.

UCLA is bringing in Dr. Frenk.

Cornell deviated a bit and brought in a veterinarian, Dr. Kotlikoff.

And now Columbia is bringing in Dr. Armstrong.

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From the [NY Times](#): *Dr. [Katrina A.] Armstrong... was abruptly appointed as Columbia University's interim president on Wednesday... By turning to Dr. Armstrong, Columbia's executive vice president for health and biomedical sciences since 2022, the university is getting an insider and a president who has publicly adopted a careful, cautious line since Hamas's attack on Israel last October...*

Full story at <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/08/15/us/katrina-armstrong-columbia-president.html>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [Columbia](#), [Cornell](#), [Harvard](#), [U of Pennsylvania](#), [UCLA](#)

Just a thought from Yours Truly for the Brave New World

Ever noticed students who fall asleep in class? Now there's a potential remedy on the horizon (apart from livelier lectures). From the [Modesto Bee](#):



Magnetic wave stimulation targeting areas of the brain could be used to enhance the job performance of police and fire personnel in Turlock. The city is considering whether to spend federal funds to offer personalized transcranial magnetic stimulation, or PrTMS, to public safety personnel who may feel groggy from poor sleep or want to improve interactions with the public.

Dr. Kevin Murphy explained the drug-free, noninvasive therapy at workshops Monday in Turlock. Therapy performed in a clinic directs magnetic pulses to stimulate electrical activity in neurons in the brain to regulate moods and restore mental well-being. The treatment is tailored for each individual based on an EEG and mapping of brain activity...

The proposed therapy for city employees with high-stress public safety jobs would employ the Genesis system to deliver low-amplitude energy pulses to nerve cells in the brain. The goal is to change brain wave patterns that are out of sync and causing negative emotions or other symptoms.

The first step is a five-minute EEG, followed by data analysis to map the person's brain activity. A personalized treatment plan is developed and the treatment is five days a week for four to eight weeks...

Full story at <https://www.modbee.com/news/local/turlock/article290977500.html>.

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